

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN – CAL FIRE CERTIFIED

7213

(New October 2015)

PURPOSE

7213.1

(New October 2015)

This policy section outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) personnel regarding CAL FIRE certified EMTs.

The CAL FIRE EMS Program, in accordance with the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 9, only certifies CAL FIRE public safety employees. The CAL FIRE EMS Program is responsible for providing oversight for EMT policy, procedures, curriculum, certification, and certification actions.

AUTHORITY

7213.2

(New October 2015)

- United States National Highway Safety and Traffic Administration National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards, DOT HS 811 077C, 2010
- California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5
- California Penal Code, Part 4
- California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- National Registry for Emergency Medical Technicians
- American Heart Association

RELATED POLICIES

7213.3

(New October 2015)

- 1000 CAL FIRE Personnel Procedures Handbook
- 1800 CAL FIRE Health and Fitness Handbook
- 4000 CAL FIRE Training Handbook
- 4300 CAL FIRE Fire Protection Training Handbook
- 7000 CAL FIRE Fire Operations Handbook
- 7200 CAL FIRE Emergency Medical Services Handbook
- 7700 CAL FIRE Emergency Incident Management Handbook
- 8500 CAL FIRE Cooperative Fire Services Handbook

RESPONSIBILITIES

(New October 2015)

7213.4

CAL FIRE Certified EMT Employee

- Ensures required EMS training requirements are met (refer to the appropriate CAL FIRE handbook)
- Ensures all training/certification/licensure requirements are met
- Notifies supervisor (employer) and EMS Program regarding any action that may affect EMS certification and/or licensure in writing
- Notifies EMS Program of any change of address within 30 days

Initial Certification

CAL FIRE public safety employees that function as EMTs are responsible for meeting the requirements for EMT initial certification as identified in the CCR, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2. In order to be eligible for initial certification, an individual shall:

- Have a valid course completion record from an approved California EMT training course (or have documentation of successful completion of an approved out-of-state EMT training course within the last two years)
- Apply for certification within two years of the date of course completion
- Pass the approved written examination and skills examination [National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians exam (NREMT)]
- Complete the Live Scan process for a criminal offender record information (CORI) check
- Disclose all EMS related certification or licensure action and/or past criminal convictions on separate sheet and submit with application

Certification includes completion of the CAL FIRE Emergency Medical Technician Certification/Recertification Application Packet.

Information received from a CORI search that may negatively affect employment, certification or licensure must be furnished to the applicant by the Certifying Entity.

Recertification

CAL FIRE public safety employees that function as EMTs are responsible for meeting the requirements for EMT recertification as identified in the CCR, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2. EMTs are responsible for re-certifying every two years. In order to be eligible for recertification, an individual shall:

- Possess a current EMT certification card issued in California
- Successfully complete a EMT refresher training course from an approved EMT training program or obtain the minimum hours of EMS Continuing Education (CE) from an approved CE provider

Recertification includes completion of the [CAL FIRE Emergency Medical Technician Certification/Recertification Application Packet](#).

In some instances, individuals applying for recertification may require a CORI. For additional information, refer to the 7200 CAL FIRE Emergency Medical Services Handbook, Appendix 4.

The 7200 CAL FIRE Emergency Medical Services Handbook, Appendix 9 provides a flowchart for the EMT initial and recertification process.

Emergency Medical Technician to Emergency Medical Responder Reciprocity

CAL FIRE employees with a valid EMT certificate and in good standing with the certifying entity, must meet the training standards required for Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and may apply for an EMR training verification card through their Unit/Program. Each Unit/Program has discretion on the issuance of EMR cards.

Lapses in Certification

Should an EMT certification lapse, the following additional CE requirements apply to recertify:

- Lapses less than six months: completion of the refresher course or 24 hours of CE for recertification
- Lapses more than six months, but less than 12 months: an additional 12 CE hours (for a total of 36 CE hours) from an approved EMS CE provider are required for recertification
- Lapses more than 12 months, but less than 24 months: an additional 24 CE hours (for a total of 48 CE hours) from an approved EMS CE provider and the applicant shall pass the written and skills certification exams for recertification
- Lapses of 24 months or more: completion of a full EMT training course is required for recertification

For additional information regarding CE requirements, refer to the 7200 CAL FIRE Emergency Medical Services Handbook, Appendices 4 and 5.

Allowances for active military personnel that function as EMTs in California are found in the CCR, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2.

Non CAL FIRE Employee Certification

CAL FIRE will not certify volunteer firefighters, paid-call firefighters, explorer scouts, or cadets as EMTs; these affiliated personnel may certify/recertify through a Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA).

Seasonal and limited term employees may recertify with CAL FIRE when not currently employed as long as there is no cost to CAL FIRE. For additional information regarding LEMSAs, refer to Section 7214, Local Emergency Medical Services Agency Certified Emergency Medical Technician.

CAL FIRE Supervisor

- Assists EMT employees with certification process as needed
- Assists Unit/Program EMS Coordinator with EMT certifications as needed

Unit/Program EMS Coordinator

- Maintains an EMT certification level or above
- Coordinates with EMS Program for all EMT/CE curriculum/training issues
- Ensures all EMS related training for recertification/maintenance of certification is conducted and CE certificates are issued
- Reviews all EMT applications for completeness and correctness prior to forwarding to EMS Program
- Ensures EMT refresher training provided is in accordance with CAL FIRE and EMSA approved curriculum
- Coordinates with EMS Program staff regarding EMT certification issues

Unit Chief/Program Manager

- Ensures EMS CE training is provided for required personnel

Region Chief/Deputy Director

- Directs Unit Chief/Program Manager to ensure all public safety personnel meet minimum training standards

EMS Program Staff

- Reviews EMT applications and validates CORI results
- Ensures positive CORI results are furnished to applicant
- Validates EMT applications and processes applications
- Issues EMT certification cards
- Enters EMT information into the California Central Registry
- Maintains certification file on all CAL FIRE EMT personnel
- Assists Units/Programs with EMT certification issues
- Follows up with Unit/Program staff and EMT regarding any CORI issues

EMS Program Training Coordinator

- Develops EMT refresher curriculum and continuing education curricula and distributes to Regions/Units/Programs and coordinates with EMS Program to maintain approved EMT refresher course training program
- Assists Unit/Program EMS Coordinators with EMT training issues
- Assists EMS Program staff with certification issues as needed

EMS Physician

- Reviews EMS curricula in conjunction with EMS Program and curriculum development staff, to ensure training materials meet current regulations and guidelines
- Coordinates with EMS Training Coordinator for distribution of curriculum as directed

EMS Program Manager

- Reviews finalized and signed EMS curricula to ensure training materials meet current regulations and guidelines and submits to EMSA for approval
- Ensures CAL FIRE EMS Program maintains an approved EMT refresher course training program
- Coordinates with Unit/Program and EMSA staff as needed
- Assists EMS Program staff with EMT certifications and training as needed

EMS Chief

- Supervises EMS Program Manager
- Ensures all EMS curricula meets all laws, statutes, regulations, and CAL FIRE policies and procedures.

[\(see next section\)](#)

[\(see HB Table of Contents\)](#)